

# *The Heterodyne*

*Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association*

## **September Meeting**

**Kristen McIntyre, K6WX  
Will Be Our Speaker**

**Wednesday September 11  
Meeting Starts at 7pm**

Meeting Location:  
American Red Cross  
Silicon Valley Chapter  
2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Dr  
(southwest corner) in San Jose

Map at [www.wvara.org/meetings.html](http://www.wvara.org/meetings.html)

## **About the Speaker**

Kristen has been interested in radio since she was about 5 years old. When she was small she built many radio kits including her favorite: the one tube radio kit. She started in Amateur Radio around 1979 while she was at MIT by getting her technician's license. She built a 2m repeater with an autopatch to use while on campus at MIT. Somewhere in the middle of all this life intervened and her license lapsed. She has recently been re-licensed getting her extra ticket. She has recently held the call signs KG6OGQ and AE6KJ in rapid succession just prior to K6WX, a vanity call. She is now active on 2m, 1.2GHz and is active on HF with an Elecraft K2 she built while on vacation visiting her mother. Kristen often does her HF-ing mobile with the K2 and a hamstick or from her apartment with a homebrew helical vertical dipole and an IC-7600 driving an AL-811H. These days she loves to chase DX using mostly CW.

Kristen is ARRL Technical Coordinator for the East Bay Section and is president of the Palo Alto

<b>WVARA Repeaters (W6PIY)</b>		
<b>Band</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>PL</b>
6 Meters	52.580- MHz	151.4 Hz
2 Meters	147.39+ MHz	151.4 Hz
1.25 Meters	223.96- MHz	156.7 Hz
0.70 Meter*	441.35+ MHz*	88.5 Hz*
0.23 Meter	1286.2- MHz	100 Hz

\*The 440 repeater is down for repairs.

## **Club Net**

WVARA's club net is on the W6PIY repeaters each Tuesday at 8:30 pm. All repeaters are linked together during the net. The net script can be found at [www.wvara.org/net.html](http://www.wvara.org/net.html).

## **Visitors Are Welcome!**



Amateur Radio Association for 2007, 2008, 2010 through the present. She is also a member of the following clubs: Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, South Bay Amateur Radio Association, NCCC, USS Hornet Amateur Radio Club, Northern California DX Club, Northern California Contest Club, FISTS CW Club (10232), NAQCC, SKCC, and Young Ladies Radio League. Kristen is also net control twice a week (well, once a week for now since work is pressing) for the 9 am talk net:

<http://www.9amtalk.net>

## **DXCC; What is it and What Does it Take to Achieve?**

**by Dennis Lyden, AG6HE**



The DX Century Club (DXCC) is an award administered by the ARRL and represents their premier award that hams can earn by confirming 100 on air contacts with different “countries”. The award dates back to 1937 when the first DXCC List of countries was published, and while it has evolved over the years, it is still the standard used by all hams that chase DX.

There are essentially three phases to the DXCC journey, working the countries, confirming the countries, and getting the contacts verified by the ARRL.

My own experience as a new ham in the Fall of 2011 was probably similar to many, having first explored UHF/VHF with HT's and a Mobile rig, in my case as a home base station. In parallel I was doing my homework on what to purchase for an HF rig. It took me about 9 months from getting my ticket to getting a DX capable 100W HF station on the air using wire antennas between trees, getting invaluable help from a couple of local hams at every step of the process. After logging a few countries, the interest in the DX aspect of the hobby really took hold and the focus increased. I started working countries exclusively on Phone, but along the way started learning CW and once I was able to be minimally proficient, started adding this mode. This essentially extended the range of my DX ability as CW is a more efficient use of bandwidth and power. I also added an amplifier and the option to transmit using up to 600W, which was very helpful in working stations that had pile-ups, or just to extend my range. My next challenge will be to add digital mode, which should further extend my range and DX results.

Learning how to get confirmations was an unexpected source of fun and enjoyment, sending QSL cards and experiencing the excitement of getting them back, especially if they were for an All Time New One (ATNO), one of DX'ers favorite expressions! The new electronic method of Logbook of The World (LoTW) offered by the ARRL is a relatively new development and is becoming more and more popular around the world as a less expensive and more immediate way to confirm a contact. It doesn't happen routinely, but you can literally upload a QSO and a few minutes later, if the other station uploaded their log as well, and there is a "match", have official confirmation of a new country in mere minutes. There is a third option called the Bureau (a.k.a. the Buro), but I have not used it and so won't comment beyond saying that it is an inexpensive but very slow confirmation process, sometimes taking years!

Once you have confirmed 100 countries by a combination of QSL card and LoTW, you can submit an application for the DXCC award, a process that is not very straight forward so having the help of other DX'ers who have gone through the application process is helpful. You can have your LoTW contacts confirmed online, but the QSL cards will need to be "checked" by a local ham that is designated by the ARRL, and they will send your paperwork to the ARRL for these contacts. The ARRL then marries your QSL card confirmed contacts with the LoTW confirmed and issues the award.

While this is considered the premier award, it is only the first, as the ARRL DX program has a total of 19 separate DXCC award certificates available, one's for achieving 100 contacts for each band, mode, or combination, plus 5 Band DXCC and Honor Roll, the top award. So if you get the DX bug, make sure you have plenty of unused wall space as there is a lifetime worth of challenges and journeys ahead of you!

Please email me if you have any specific future DX related topic(s) you'd like to see covered, I'm looking forward to the opportunity to contribute and would value your inputs.

73,  
Dennis, AG6HE, DX Special Interest Group



**Gil - Courtesy June 1958 QST**  
Rediscovered by Tom Dunbar, W6ESL

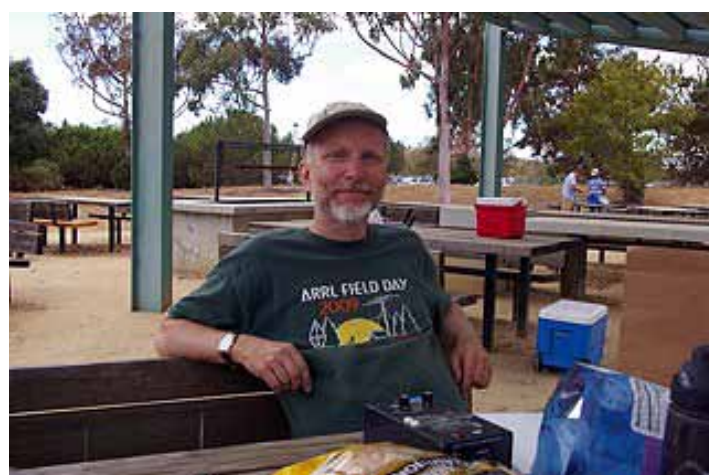


## A Really Fun BBQ by Jim Peterson, K6EI

This year's WVARA BBQ was a total hoot. The weather was cool, and the charcoal was hot. We had plenty of good food, and lots of radio-activity to boot.

Mike and Celeste Gitschel set up a VHF station for monitoring the PIY repeater. We also had a 100w HF rig in operation during the North America QSO party, and "Team WVARA" made a couple dozen contacts on 15 meters using a basic mag-mount whip antenna. No WVARA event is complete without a cool antenna, so Rick Ibarra set up his TenTec QRP transceiver and got on the air using an end-fed 20m vertical dipole (after launching a line over a nearby tree.)

Many thanks to everyone for helping out and making this year's event so much fun!







## License Upgrade

Brian Goldberg, KG6BKI, passed the exam to upgrade his license from Technician to General on August 31

**Congratulations Brian!**

<b>WVARA Net Check-Ins</b>				
<b>Call Sign</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>8/20/13</b>	<b>8/27/13</b>	<b>9/3/13</b>
AB6XS	Kevin			X
AF6AE	Bill		X	X
AG6HE	Dennis			X
AG6SQ	Mike			
K6BRF	Bert		X	X
K6LOH	Celeste		X	
K6QFO	Mike		X	
K6WAR	Bill	X		X
KD6VOR	Marv			X
KF6EMB	Svend	X	X	X
KJ6CQJ	Dean	X	X	
KJ6GMO	Sue	X	X	
KK6VF*	Kevin	X	X	X
KS6PD	Steve	X		X
W6ESL	Tom	X		
W6HOC	Howard	X	X	X
W6PK	Phil			X
WB6KHP	Dave	X	X	X
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>* Net Control</b>				

**California QSO Party**  
**47th Running Of The CQP!**  
**October 5-6, 2013**  
**1600 UTC Oct 5 to 2200 UTC Oct 6**  
**[www.cqp.org](http://www.cqp.org)**

## **Items For Sale By George, N6NKT:**

**Helper Instruments Sinadder Model S-101 \$50**

**Kenwood YG-455CN 250 CW Filter** for 455Khz IF. Almost brand new \$75

**Boonton 92EA RF Voltmeter \$200**

Contact George Williams, N6NKT, n6nkt AT yahoo.com

Send Buy and Sell information to: het\_editor AT wvara.org

## **Electronics Flea Market**

Hosted By:

Foothills Amateur Radio Society

[www.electronicfleamarket.com/schedule](http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/schedule)

The next flea market is: **Saturday, Sep 14**

**Note:** October 12 flea market is canceled,  
so Sep 14 is the last one this year.

The market opens around 5:00am  
and closes at 12:00 Noon.

## **Amateur Radio Exam Sessions**

The Silicon Valley VE Group holds  
amateur radio exam sessions twice  
monthly in Saratoga. For more infor-  
mation, visit <http://www.svve.org>, or  
contact Morris Jones, AD6ZH, at  
(408) 507-4698 or [mojoteri@comcast.net](mailto:mojoteri@comcast.net).

## **2013 West Valley Amateur Radio Association Officers**

President: Bill Frantz, AE6JV  
Vice President: John Glass, NU6P  
Secretary: Scott Emery, AD6RY  
Treasurer: Jon Kelley, K6WV  
Directors:  
Chuck Kamas, AD6CL  
Jim Peterson, K6EI  
Svend Jensen, KF6EMB  
Brian Goldberg, KG6BKI  
Kevin Smith, KK6VF  
Dave Schultheis, WB6KHP  
Rick Ibarra, WE6AAI

The Heterodyne is published  
monthly by the West Valley Ama-  
teur Radio Association and sent  
to all club members via the web.  
Please obtain permission from the  
author to re-publish any article in  
this publication.

Heterodyne Editor: Phil Verinsky, W6PK  
Internet Postmaster: Phil Verinsky, W6PK  
Meeting Refreshments: Kevin Smith, KK6VF  
Repeater Trustee: Chuck Kamas, AD6CL  
Webmaster: Larry Goodwin, KG6ENF  
Club URL: <http://www.wvara.org>

Speaker Committee:  
John Glass, NU6P  
Scott Emery, AD6RY  
Jim Peterson, K6EI  
Jon Kelley, K6WV  
Phil Verinsky, W6PK

DX Special Interest Group:  
Dennis Lyden, AG6HE

Club address:  
West Valley Amateur Radio Assn  
P.O. Box 6544  
San Jose, CA 95150-6544

**See You At The Meeting!**